

Appln. No. 09/893,202

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 74577-031

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action of November 24, 2004.

Claims 4-8, 10, 11-21, and 23-28, 30, and 31 remain in this application. The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claims 1-3, 9, 14, and 22, 29, and 32 have been canceled. Claims 4, 10, 17, and 23, 27, and 30 have been amended. Claims 4, 6, 10, 17, 23, 27, and 30 are independent.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of February 2 and 18, 2005. The pending claims have been amended as discussed, based on the Examiner's indication that the claims as amended are allowable and that a Notice of Allowance would be issued promptly.

Applicants note that the amendments are being made without prejudice and solely in order to advance prosecution of this application more rapidly to issuance.

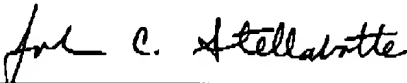
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In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-8, 10, 11-21, 23-28, 30, and 31 are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and that the application is in proper form for allowance of all claims. Applicant earnestly solicits a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

PROSKAUER ROSE LLP
Attorneys for ApplicantsBy 
John C. Stellabotte
Reg. No. 47,969

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PROSKAUER ROSE LLP
1585 Broadway
New York, NY 10036-8299
Telephone: (212) 969-3000